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SUBJECT:1975-76 ROMANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 0239

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS EMBASSY'S POSITION RE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING PRACTICE OF NOMINATING RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND PROFESSORS FOR GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS UNDER THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS RECURRING PROBLEM.

2. THE US-ROMANIAN EXCHANGES AGREEMENTS HAVE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED SEPARATE CATEGORIES FOR "GRADUATE STUDENTS AND YOUNG INSTRUCTORS" AND "RESEARCH SCHOLARS". THIS IS EVIDENT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAM FOR 1975 AND 1976 WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED IN DECEMBER. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ROMANIANS ARE OBLIGATED TO NOMINATE BONA FIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH OF THE AGREEMENT, AS DOES THE US SIDE.

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3. ROMANIANS IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAVE CHOSEN TO NOMINATE

RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND FACULTY MEMBERS FOR THESE GRADUATE

STUDENT GRANTS, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT THE STIPEND PROVIDED IS ONLY DOLS 310 PER MONTH. WHILE THIS HAS NOT BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE PAST, IT HAS BECOME SERIOUS OVER THE PAST YEAR BECAUSE OF INCREASED LIVING COSTS IN THE US, AND THE ROMANIAN "GRADUATE STUDENTS" ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

4. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND ROMANIA'S POSITION IN ATTEMPTING TO PLACE AS MANY RESEARCH SCHOLARS AS POSSIBLE IN THE US, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE ABLE TO NOMINATE BONA FIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS UNDER SIMILAR CU PROGRAMS, AND TO DATE WE HAVE NOT BEEN AWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES. WE SEE NO REASON TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR ROMANIA, PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER PROGRAMS (IREX, NAS, NSF) FOR WHICH ROMANIAN RESEARCH SCHOLARS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT THE U.S.

5. WHILE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1976/77, THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE IS WHETHER WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE ROMANIAN "GRADUATE STUDENT" NOMINEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 75/76. CU/EE IS UNABLE TO INCREASE THE STIPENDS OF THE ROMANIAN "GRADUATE STUDENTS" TO THE RESEARCH SCHOLAR LEVEL. THIS WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL DOLS 65,000 WHICH IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE FY 75 BUDGET. WE PROPOSE THREE OPITONS:

A. WE HOLD THE ROMANIANS TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND REQUEST THEY NOMINATE BONA FIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE NORMAL STIPEND PROVIDED BY CU IN ITS WORLD-WIDE STUDENT PROGRAM.

B. IF THE ROMANIANS, RECOGNIZING THAT THEY ARE NOT FULFILLING THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, NEVERTHELESS WISH TO NOMINATE THE EXISTING SLATE OF ROMANIAN "GRADUATE STUDENTS" WE WOULD PROPOSE TO CUT THE NUMBER OF ROMANIAN "STUDENTS" IN HALF FOR AY 75/76 ONLY, AND TO RAISE THE STIPEND FROM 310 DOLS TO DOLS 540 PER MONTH.

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C. A VARIANT OF OPTION B ABOVE WOULD BE TO ACCEPT THE FULL SLATE OF 17 NOMINATIONS, PAY THE HIGHER STIPEND, BUT ACCEPT THEM FOR ONLY ONE SEMESTER RATHER THAN TWO.

6. IN ANY CASE WE WOULD EXPECT ROMANIANS TO NOMINATE BONA FIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, ACCORDING TO TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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